on 31 October, 1988, grants have been released to State Governments and Union territories and to Voluntary Organisations for operating 2,30,258 Non-Formal Education Centres.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The target for the Seventh Plan is to set up 3,55,00 NFE centres by the end of 1989-80.

Space Tie-up with China

2230. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to have space tie-up with China; and

(b) whether there would be any general discussions in the beginning of this aspect during the proposed visit of the Prime Minister to China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Matters concerning functional exchanges between India and China in various fields, including those in the field of Science and Technology, are being discussed with the Chinese Government.

Implementation of National Literacy and Immunisation Programmes

2231. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Ministry of Railways have taken any steps to implement National Literacy and Immunisation Programme; and

(b) if so, what are the details of training centres which have been opened or ogranised by his Ministry for that purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) have taken steps to assist in National Literacy and Immuinsation Programme.

(b) A total number of 389 Training Centres have been opened on the Zonal Railways to impart literacy to about 10,000 people. It has also been decided to protect Railway colony children (85 per cent) and all pregnant women by 1990 and the Zonal Railways have been advised to step up this year's Immunisation activities accordingly. 3(Three) Workshops involving family planning doctors have already been organised.

Indian Troops in Maldives

2232. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian troops are still being kept in Maldives for assisting the Government of Maldives in maintaining peace and stability in those islands; and

(b) if so, for how long they are likely to be retained there?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) A small contingent of about 305 Indian troops is in Maldives at the express request of the Government of that country and will be withdrawn as soon as the Government of Maldives is satisfied about the security situation there.

Advisory bodies to the IAAI and N.A.A

2233. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what supervision exists to ensure that International Airports Authority of India and National Airports

Authority do implement suggestions for improvement of the airports;

(b) what are the names of the bodies responsible for advising the International Airports Authority of India and the National Airports Authority to do their job;

(c) whether it is a fact that no visible improvement has been recorded over the last two years in the functioning of both these organisations in the area of passenger amenities;

(d) whether a large number of officials from both these organisations frequently visit abroad for training and study tours; and

(e) to what extent they implement their required knowledge in our air - port management for improvement of air services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Being statutory authorities, IAAI and NAA are fully responsible for efficient discharge of their functions. The performance of these Authorities are, however, monitored by Government from time to time.

(b) IAAI have an Advisory Committee consisting of non-officials to advise them on facilitation, maintenance and other services to be provided at International Airports. The standard of service provided by NAA is reviewed by committees consisting of user agencies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Officers are deputed for foreign training only if the training helps to improve their professional acumen in airport operations/management.

Supervision on IAAI and NAA

2234. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations for having a better supervision on International Airports Authority of India and National Airports Authority;

(b) what steps are being taken to induct non-officials to supervise better the functioning of these organisations through advisor bodies; and

(c) what steps are being taken to tone up the International Airports Authority of India and National Airports Authority to improve the functioning of our airports, which lag behind in passenger amenities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Being statutory organisations, IAAI and NAA are fully responsible for efficient discharge of their functions. The performance of these organisations are, however, monitored by Government from time to time. IAAI have an Advisory Committee consisting of non-officials to advise them on facilitation, maintenance and other services at International Airports.

(c) The upgradation of facilities at airports is an ongoing process. Appropriate schemes for improvement of facilities are formulated and executed from time to time depending on availability of resources.

Employees in the Railways

2235. SHRI ASHIS SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

What is the total number of staff employed by Northern Railway, Western Railway, Central Railway, South Central Railway, Southern Railway, South Eastern Railway, North Eastern Railway, North East Frontier Railway and Eastern Railway, in 1974 and 1987 indicating, separately the number of officers and the other classified as regular and casual?